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# Assassinated under U.S. command: Nasrallah murdered in apocalyptic bomb attack

**By Gary Wilson**

Iranian women hold pictures of Lebanon's Hassan Nasrallah and Palestinian flags at a protest in Tehran on Sept. 27.

The U.S. was behind the September 27 assassination of Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in an apocalyptic bombing attack using 85 U.S.-built and supplied BLU-109 bunker-buster bombs in a residential area of Beirut.

Nasrallah had led the Lebanon-based liberation organization for 32 years. His assassination was part of a broader massacre, as the same Israeli airstrikes resulted in the deaths and injuries of hundreds of Lebanese civilians.

The same attack that resulted in Nasrallah's death also took the life of Brigadier General Abbas Nilforooshan, the deputy chief of operations for the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Council.

Nasrallah's daughter, Zainab Nasrallah, was also killed.

Israeli airstrikes in the following days killed Hamas' leader in Lebanon, Fateh Sherif Abu el-Amin, along with his family. Another Israeli airstrike in Beirut killed the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) military security chief, Mohammad Abd al-Aal, military commander Imad Odeh, and Abdelrahman Abd al-Aal.

On Oct. 1, the Associated Press reported that the Israeli Occupation Force "has moved into southern Lebanon … opening a new front" in its war on the people of Palestine and of Lebanon.

Nasrallah's assassination was ordered from New York City by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, where he appeared before a nearly empty U.N. General Assembly meeting. Netanyahu's office released a photo of him inside an office at the U.N. headquarters in New York while using a landline telephone to approve the strike on Beirut.

Responsibility lies ultimately with the U.S., which finances and arms the Zionist regime. President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris – both Democrats – and Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson have expressed support for the bombing, praising the assassination. The U.S. recently authorized an additional $8.7 billion in arms to Israel, facilitating its ongoing actions in Gaza, the West Bank, Yemen, and now Lebanon.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III spoke twice with Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant in the hours before the bombing attack, presumably giving the order to proceed (the tail does not wag the dog; Austin is the commanding officer, the head of the Pentagon, and he gives the orders, not the other way around as the official news reports claim). The news report added that General Austin "expressed full support for Israel's" operation in Lebanon and "made it clear that the United States remains committed to the defense of Israel."

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was a brilliant leader who twice defeated Israel. Nasrallah was killed because of his unwavering support for Palestine.

The great Palestinian scholar Edward Said recalled meeting the "remarkably impressive" Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and noted he "adopted a strategy toward Israel quite similar to that of the Vietnamese against the Americans: We cannot fight them because they have an army, a navy, and a nuclear option, so the only way we can do it is to make them feel it in body bags."

Hezbollah is a political party in Lebanon born out of the resistance against Israel's illegal invasion and military occupation of southern Lebanon in the 1980s and 1990s.

Nasrallah and Hezbollah spearheaded the resistance against Israel on two occasions, resulting in significant victories: first,

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**The U.S. war drive against CHINA What it means for workers**

# Marcellus Williams murdered by state

**By John Parker**

The lights went out at 6:10 on Tuesday, September 24. Lights go out for everyone naturally when it is time. But the glow of a precious candle is snuffed out far too frequently when murder and racism are the cause.

The Missouri Department of Corrections pronounced Marcellus Williams, who is Black, dead at 6:10 p.m. after lethal injection. He was tried for allegedly killing Felisha Gayle, who is white, at her home during a robbery.

Williams held on to his truth that he was innocent. And even the prosecutor believed Williams' truth.

St. Louis County Prosecutor Attorney Wesley Bell presented a new DNA lab report showing that the murder weapon did not have Williams' DNA and that the prosecutors mishandled the murder weapon.

Bell wrote in the motion to rescind Williams' sentence: "Bloody shoeprints were present near a knife sheath in the kitchen, in the hallway leading to the front foyer, and on the rug near Ms. Gayle's body. Bloody fingerprints were found along the wall. And hairs believed to belong to the perpetrator were collected from Ms. Gayle's t-shirt, her hands, and the floor. None of this physical evidence tied Mr. Williams to Ms. Gayle's murder."

Williams was convicted on the testimony of two who were in legal trouble and promised $10,000 in reward money.

The NAACP and the Council on American-Islamic Relations also tried to stop Williams' execution, as did two jurors: "After considering this new DNA evidence, it is something I would have considered at the guilt phase and it may have made a difference with the jury," the foreperson said.

"Having reviewed this information, I am disturbed that none of this was presented at trial and that the jury never had the opportunity to consider it. ... I strongly believe that had this information been provided to the jury, it would have made a difference in the verdict and sentence," said an alternate juror.

Marcellus Williams

The U.S. Supreme Court rejected the appeal for a stay, as did Missouri Gov. Mike Parsons, who would not consider evidence that came to light as early as 2017 about the DNA that was not Williams'.

It was not hidden. Reports hitting the major news media almost two weeks before the execution exposing the evidence and the very public pleas from the prosecutor and family were easy to see, especially toward the view of Democratic and Republican candidates vulnerable to their response to the execution.

Time, ABC, NBC, USA Today, Reuters, and other corporate news media could easily be seen by candidates such as Trump and Harris. Both remained silent, even after the Rolling Stone inquiry to Harris: "Meanwhile, the Democratic nominee, Vice President Kamala Harris — once a critic of the death penalty — has seemingly gone silent on the topic, even after President Joe Biden promised in 2020 to stop federal executions and propose legislation to abolish the death penalty at the state level. The Democratic Party platform this year, for the first time since 2004, lacks any mention of the death penalty. The campaign has not returned several requests for comment."

Silence equals complicity, especially when your position of power could and would make a difference. Neither President Biden nor Vice President Harris chose to lift a finger nor make a peep.

And, those who could make a difference in Legislative or Executive branches didn't even seem to mind when a Black man was executed four days earlier, also despite evidence of innocence.

Freddie Owens was put to death in South Carolina by lethal injection on September 20, the Friday before the Tuesday execution of Williams.

The primary witness, Steven Golden, on Wednesday before the Friday execution, signed a sworn statement that he lied to escape the death penalty: "I did that because I knew that's what the police wanted me to say, and also because I thought the real shooter or his associates might kill me if I named him to the police," he said. "I am still afraid of that. But Freddie was actually not there."

Again, the U.S. Supreme Court and South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster chose to ignore the evidence and refused to block the lethal injection in Owens' Black skin.

Owens was given a choice – the electric chair, the firing squad, or the needle. He let his lawyer pick.

There is evidence that some are not entirely unconscious from drugs preceding the poison in the needle.

And again, there is nothing but silence and complicity from the Legislative and Executive Branches, including the presidential candidates.

Since 2015, the killing of Black and Brown people by police has continued to break the

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# Introduction

**By Sharon Black**

Oct. 1, 2024, marks the 75th anniversary of China's earth-shaking revolution, which broke the chains of feudal slavery and imperialist domination.

The Communist Party of China, under the leadership of Mao Zedong, commonly known as Chairman Mao, both inside China and among the world's oppressed, did what was considered near impossible. The revolution ended China's "Century of Humiliation," which began with the British imperialists' First Opium War in 1839.

Widespread famine, floods, and forced labor, as well as severely shortened lifespans, marked the era of imperialist domination. China's huge landmass and difficult terrain made it seemingly impossible to unite the diverse population, including its numerous ethnic groups.

In 1949, only 20% of the population could read, and the life expectancy was 35 years. China was primarily a rural peasant economy; its working class was tiny in comparison. There was almost no industrialization or education. But by 1975, the revolution had increased life expectancy to 65.5 years.

The newly founded People's Republic of China, under the banner, "Women hold up half the sky," abolished arranged marriage, child brides, and concubinage. The status of women was uplifted and enshrined in the 1950 Marriage Law and the Land Law.

In the last 75 years, progress for the masses and China's working class has been remarkable.

In 2012, China's President Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, vowed to eradicate the vestiges of extreme poverty by 2020. Despite the additional challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chinese government proudly proclaimed the eradication of extreme poverty on November 23, 2020.

The World Bank, indeed no friend of the Communist Party of China, declared that China has lifted over 850 million people out of poverty. "By any measure, the speed and scale of China's poverty reduction is historically unprecedented. With this, China has contributed close to three-quarters of the global reduction in the number of people living in extreme poverty."

China is now a world scientific power. It has built high-speed trains and affordable electric cars, reduced pollution and carbon emissions, and engaged in space exploration. The People's Republic of China's accomplishments have spanned the gamut from health care to education and sports.

China is the world's second-largest economy by nominal GDP (Gross Domestic Product), behind the United States, and since 2017 has been the world's largest economy when measured by purchasing power parity (PPP).

GDP is the monetary market value of all final goods and services made within a country during a specific period. What is not measured by this standard is how that is distributed.

PPP is an alternative way to measure GDP that takes into account the differences in the cost of living between countries. It adjusts the GDP figures to reflect the actual purchasing power of a country's currency. When measured by PPP, China's economy has been larger than that of the United States since 2017. The cost of living in China is generally lower than in the United States. This means that the same amount of money can buy more goods and services in China than in the U.S.

The development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by China, in contrast to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which demands austerity and cutbacks for loans, has contributed to the developing countries of the Global South.

The BRI is aimed at building infrastructure that links land and sea. In Africa, this includes railways in Kenya, an electric railway in Ethiopia, and hydropower stations in Uganda. Washington, which does not

*Continued on page 4*

# A student's pursuit of justice leads

**By Apryle Everly** | Sept. 24. 2024

Why China? That's a question I have had to answer a lot these past few months. Whether it be family, friends, or previous co-workers, everyone wants to know why I have chosen to apply to Wuhan University for law school.

I'm 23 years old and a recent graduate of college. I am also the first person in my Black working-class family to graduate from college. Since I was a teenager, I've always wanted to be a lawyer, with my specific interest being international law.

It was my dream to serve as counsel on the International Criminal Court. However, given the recent failure of ICC lawyers to bring Israel and its genocidal supporters to heel, I no longer live under any delusions about international law's capabilities in the current world order.

While it is true that there are a myriad of U.S.-based law schools that provide international law programs for students to enroll in, the problem that I have continuously found myself in is cost. I have no help to finance furthering my education and already have around $20,000 of student loan debt.

The slight humor to this situation is that I'm considered lucky compared to other recent Gen-Z graduates, as the average student loan debt is currently over $37,000. I offer this to give perspective on why I would consider what most have politely told me is a drastic change of scenery.

While I must admit the prospect of such change at first was scary, especially since this would be the furthest I have ever traveled, I now embrace the change. The first two reasons I offer to those who ask are cost and cultural experience. Like so many others my age, I want to receive an education for my passions and have ambitions of turning those passions into a career.

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# The U.S. war drive against China – What it means

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contribute to local development, mainly ships weapons and war munitions to Africa, building AFRICOM — the U.S. Africa Command, a unified combat command of the Pentagon.

### Global class war and China

Revolutionary change and the struggles of the working class don't happen in isolation; international events and global pressures influence them. The same applies to the material conditions that shape them.

What the Communist Party of China and the Chinese working class have faced, whether through external or internal pressure, trade wars, attempts at dismemberment, military threats, or hot war, can best be described as a global class war. This struggle primarily pits U.S. imperialism against the working class worldwide, especially in countries intent on building socialism and liberating themselves from imperialist control.

The approach of U.S. monopoly capitalism has not, at any moment, adopted a hands-off policy regarding building socialism in China, nor, for that matter, anywhere else in the world. They are for intervention against socialism everywhere.

It's important to underscore that in the decades preceding the success of the 1949 revolution, the United States military and government were already playing a role in attempting to defeat the Chinese communist revolutionaries by supplying arms to the reactionary Kuomintang.

Both the bloody Korean and Vietnam wars were equally about containing, encircling, and strangling China, along with defeating the liberation aspirations of the Korean and Vietnamese people.

The Pentagon visited unfathomable destruction on both northern Korea and Vietnam. It bombed North Korea to rubble and engaged in carpet bombing and deforestation in Vietnam. An estimated 2.5 million Koreans lost their lives, and the estimated deaths of Vietnamese range from 1 to 3 million. The people of both the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam successfully moved heaven and earth to rebuild.

The 1989 reactionary Tiananmen Square "student rebellion" characterized as a massacre by the West and later exposed as a lie might possibly be described as a much earlier attempt, failed as it was, at "color revolution" (the name given to Western-backed attempts at regime change starting with the Rose Revolution in the country of Georgia in 2003).

Throw in the Dalai Lama and the CIA-led "Tibetan independence movement," and the Falun Gong project, and you can see the pattern of lies meant to turn all manner of sympathy against the CPC and direct efforts to divide and dismember the People's Republic of China.

The key to China's ability to hold off counter-revolution and to weather imperialist schemes is that the Communist Party of China and its government, backed by the People's Liberation Army, have continued to hold state power in the name of the working class. China continues to have a planned economy based on the state-owned infrastructure.

### Today's heightened danger

The present decade has brought bigger challenges. The maneuvers by U.S. imperialism have been increasingly more dangerous and point in the direction of a hot war centered around Taiwan. The U.S. NATO proxy war against Russia and the increasing regional war in Western Asia, with Palestine as its central flash point, should be seen as one.

What undergirds and fuels this crisis is the contraction of monopoly capitalism. More than ever, the U.S. economy relies less on production for use and more on spend-

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# to China

*Continued from page 4*

### The better option is obvious

The School of International Law at Wuhan University has one of the world's top international law programs and thousands of students worldwide enroll every semester. The total cost for the duration of the program, 2 years, is currently a little over $9,000. In comparison, the tuition costs for Georgetown University Law Center's three-year program are over $79,000 per year. To any student, the better option is obvious.

Most, if not all, young adults in Gen-Z cannot afford to take out loans to cover this amount of money, nor can they attach all their hopes to receiving scholarships from philanthropists who are only interested in receiving a tax write-off.

China has a rich history that more people should want to experience, not to mention their public transportation systems allow both the Chinese people and visitors to fully enjoy what the country has to offer.

It surprised me when I found out that the Chinese government allots money in the form of scholarships to students from dozens of countries around the world, the U.S. being one of them. All that is required is that an interested student applies directly with the Chinese government, most likely through an embassy in their country or the university itself.

Unsurprisingly, the U.S., Britain, and Australia are amongst the lowest student populations to utilize the scholarship monies provided. This needs to change, as there should be as few barriers to higher education as possible, despite the ruling class's desire to keep people stuck in perpetual debt. If the international community welcomes me with open arms, I think it only makes sense to accept the invitation and learn from people worldwide.

Wuhan University

PHOTO: HOWCHOU, CC BY-SA 3.0

While I'm sure many may not understand my decision to go outside the box of U.S. conventionalism, all I have to offer is that those with my circumstances, will and do understand. Some have even offered to visit me while I'm there. I am the first in my family to graduate from college, and while that is something to celebrate, my story does not end there. I have always wanted to be part of the international community, to see for myself what is true and what is not, and to work with others around the world to bring true justice to the working class.

True international solidarity rooted in the working class is not something any U.S. law program could ever offer, and thus, it's not for me anymore. Although I wrote this to explain why I decided to make this decision, I'm hoping that this gives information to other young people interested in doing the same. #

# for workers

*Continued from page 4*

ing and development for what is popularly called the military-industrial complex. The capitalist banking system is intertwined with these developments. It is the super fuel for inflation and the deepening impoverishment of the broader working class, making larger war inevitable.

Lenin's thesis on imperialism is more important than ever. The drive toward war is independent of political administrations or individual intentions, regardless of how venal or corrupt. As the global capitalist crisis deepens, the U.S. imperialist system is propelled toward wider war.

Our role in the "belly of the beast" is clear. The global working class, including U.S. workers, who increasingly embody a diverse collective of nations, must be united in solidarity with the working class of China.

The vast majority of the people of the United States have nothing in common with the multi-trillion dollar bankers and war profiteers who are promoting the war buildup against China.

This book, "The U.S. War Drive Against China: What it means for workers," is an effort to expose the increasing danger of a U.S. war against China and to reveal the real enemies of the working class. #

*New book, soon to released*

**'The U.S. war drive against CHINA What it means for workers'**

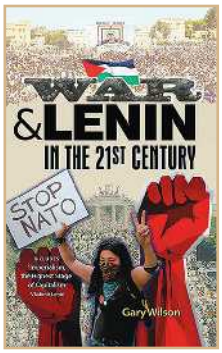
**'WAR AND LENIN in the 21st Century'**

**NEW -** Updated to include U.S. complicity in the Gaza genocide and military profiteering.

Published on the centenary of Vladimir Lenin's death. The revolutionary leader of the Soviet Union and key contributor to Marxist theory, wrote "**Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism**" in 1916. It remains an influential critique of imperialism.

**Does Lenin's analysis of imperialism hold up today?**

The U.S. emerged from WWII as the world's most powerful imperialist country, It established the U.S. dollar as the international currency and engages in endless wars. As in Lenin's time, the conclusion is that socialist revolution will end imperialist war, enabling workers to meet their own needs.




**Available in paperback or kindle at tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar**

# Why China isn't capitalist

**By Stephen Millies** | Sept. 5, 2022

Wall Street and the Pentagon view the People's Republic of China as their number one enemy. China is the target of U.S. imperialism's "Pivot to Asia."

China's economy may already be larger than the United States. The American Enterprise Institute – one of the best-known capitalist think tanks – admits China surpassed the U.S. as the world's biggest manufacturer back in 2010.

That's historically significant. Factories in the United States exceeded Britain's production in the 1890s.

China is now the "workshop of the world." In 2021, China built nearly 17 million more motor vehicles than the U.S.

This tremendous economic growth is the result of China's socialist revolution. It's not just a matter of China making more than a billion tons of steel a year or having more miles of high-speed rail than the rest of the world.

When Mao Zedong declared "China has stood up" in 1949 and the People's Republic of China was born, Chinese people lived to be, on average, just 36 years old.

By 2022 life expectancy had more than doubled to reach 77.3 years. That's a longer lifespan than in the United States.

Despite these tremendous gains, some communists and revolutionaries contend that capitalism has been restored in the People's Republic of China. They point to the 606 billionaires in China, including 67 in Hong Kong.

### The capitalist world market

The People's Republic of China is entangled in the capitalist world market. Almost $2.5 trillion in foreign direct investment has poured into China since 1992.

This represents millions of Chinese workers being exploited by foreign capitalists. For example, in 2021, General Motors made 2.9 million cars in China.

That's almost 700,000 more vehicles than it sold in the U.S. Tesla is investing $7.5 billion in its Shanghai "gigafactory."

Unlike China before liberation, none of this investment is colonial in character. Foreign corporations have to share technology and know-how. Elon Musk ignored California's safety regulations during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, but he has to follow Chinese laws.

### Mistakes shouldn't be repeated

Decades ago, many revolutionaries had already considered the Soviet Union to be capitalist.

Mikhail Gorbachev – who opened the door to capitalist restoration – didn't come out of nowhere. He rose in the bureaucracy under both Khrushchev and Brezhnev.

There were hundreds of thousands of Gorbachevs in the Soviet government and Communist Party. They were supporters of Gorbachev's anti-Marxist "new thinking" that sneered at the class struggle. These elements shared Gorbachev's illusions about U.S. imperialism and capitalist society in general.

Most of the "oligarchs" came from their ranks. They stole trillions of dollars worth of socialist property that workers and peasant farmers had built over a dozen five-year plans.

### Aided the liberation of Angola, Namibia

Yet as late as 1988, Soviet-built MiG-25 jet fighters gave the People's Armed Forces of Liberation of Angola air superiority in the crucial battle of Cuito Cuanavale. A coalition of liberation forces decisively defeated the apartheid army from South Africa, backed by the Pentagon.

These included the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), the armed wing of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO); uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the armed section of the African National Congress (ANC), and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba. Also present were military advisers from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Soviet Union.

Less than two years after this battle, Nelson Mandela walked out of prison on Feb. 11, 1990.

Apartheid South Africa first invaded the newly independent People's Republic of Angola in 1975. Africa called, and Cuba answered. Cuban volunteers shed their blood beside their African comrades.

Critics of the Soviet leadership could see for themselves which side of the world the Soviet Union and its allies were on.

It's been over 30 years since socialism was tragically overthrown in the Soviet Union. This was a greater defeat for workers and oppressed people everywhere than Hitler crushing the German working class.

To have written off Soviet socialism in the decades before Gorbachev rose to power confused revolutionaries. It disarmed communists when the real counter-revolutionary threat appeared.

### Socialism vs. COVID

Those that claimed that the Soviet Union was already capitalist 50 or 60 years ago apparently didn't understand that capitalism can't function without a huge body of unemployed workers. Frederick Engels, the co-thinker of Karl Marx, called jobless workers the industrial reserve army.

Capitalists know this well. Sam Insull – whose crooked Midwestern utility empire collapsed in the Great Depression – declared that "the greatest aid to the efficiency of labor is a long line of men waiting at the gate." Meaning women and men desperately seeking a job.

But there was no industrial reserve army in the Soviet Union. Instead, the country suffered from a labor shortage.

This was one of the features of Soviet society that made it incompatible with capitalism. The Soviet economy was planned. A state monopoly of foreign trade kept the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank at bay.

In contrast to the Soviet Union, millions of workers in the People's Republic of China are without a job. The unemployment rate for youth between 16 and 24 years old reached 19.9% in July.

Particularly affected are the record number of 10.75 million college graduates. Before liberation in 1949, there were only 117,000 college students in China.

A big reason for the lack of hiring has been the anti-COVID actions that socialist China took. The capitalist media attacked these absolutely necessary health measures.

Huge cities like Beijing and Shanghai were temporarily closed. Unarmed socialist

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police in Wuhan delivered meals to people in their homes.

This was a clear contest between capitalism and socialism. In the U.S., 1,046,243 people have died from COVID-19 as of Sept. 1.

Meanwhile, 14,922 people died in the People's Republic of China, which has over a billion more people than the United States. (China's total includes 9,701 people who died in the capitalist Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong.)

No capitalist government on earth could have done what socialist China did in fighting the pandemic. Banksters and billionaires wouldn't have allowed it. Profits are more precious than life to billionaires and their media stooges.

John Tyson (chicken billionaire) and other dead-animal capitalists got Trump to issue an executive order keeping the meatpacking plants open and shielding themselves from lawsuits. As a result, over 59,000 meatpacking workers caught the virus, and 269 died.

### Kept on a leash

China has a sizeable capitalist class, with 606 billionaires forming its crest. These capitalists are kept on a leash.

Liu Han's $6 billion stash didn't prevent him from being executed in 2015. A millionaire (much less a billionaire) has never been executed in the United States.

A handful of banks play a dominant role over the U.S. government. The Communist Party of China runs China's banks.

The commanding heights of China's economy are controlled by the Communist Party. While production has stagnated in the imperialist countries, China's steel production leaped from 400 million tons in 2007 to over a billion tons today.

You can't explain China's fantastic economic growth except by admitting there's some other social system than capitalism in charge.

If socialism had been overthrown in China, there would be no need for a separate regime for capitalist Hong Kong, which has its own currency. China liberated Hong Kong from British colonialism in 1997.

After the Soviet Union was destroyed, Wall Street's next target was China. But, to many in the military-industrial complex, NATO's 78 days of bombing Yugoslavia was a poor substitute.

**People stand next to a display commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China on its eve in Shanghai on June 30, 2021.**

Their frustration was behind the deliberate bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.

NATO's war against Yugoslavia was a class war. Despite all the concessions that Tito had made to imperialism, what remained of Yugoslavia in 1999 was socialist in class character.

Sometimes retreats are absolutely necessary. For example, the Long March was a glorious retreat that saved the Communist Party of China from being destroyed.

Mao Zedong argued for the Red Army to take the Long March to escape encirclement. Lenin and the Bolsheviks had to make a sharp economic retreat in the early 1920s by launching NEP, the New Economic Policy.

Karl Marx contemplated that following a socialist revolution, the working class might have to "buy off the band" of well-to-do elements.

Confronted by world imperialism, the People's Republic of China has allowed both foreign and domestic capital to flourish. It was a case of bending instead of being broken.

### Growth of China's working class

While the capitalist class has grown in China, much more spectacular has been the growth of the working class.

The Chinese Revolution's biggest problem was the small number of workers in the country. In 1949, workers were perhaps 1% of the population.

Today the working class in the People's Republic of China is hundreds of millions strong. Thousands of strikes occur against private capitalists.

Chinese workers credit communism for China's tremendous advances in health and economic growth. The social weight of the working class has been responsible for China's extensive reforms in health care and education over the last 20 years.

Those who claim that a counter-revolution has taken place in China should show when this overthrow occurred. Comrade Mao Zedong famously wrote that a revolution is not a dinner party.

A counter-revolution is far bloodier. The events following Mao's death couldn't have changed China's class character.

Just as a rising class needs to smash the state machine of the old ruling class – as was done in the French and Bolshevik revolutions – so would a counter-revolution need to smash the apparatus built by the Chinese Revolution. That hasn't happened.

To claim that the concessions made to capitalists over the last 45 years amount to overthrowing the Chinese Revolution is reformism in reverse.

There are many more chapters to be written in the Chinese Revolution. The working class in the People's Republic of China – which includes millions of workers from minority nationalities like the Uyghurs and Tibetans – will have the last word.

Long live the Chinese Revolution! #

# Biden's tariffs on China: A union worker

## PART 1

**Chris Fry | June 20, 2024**

**BIDEN HAS SLAPPED A 100% TARIFF** on Chinese electric vehicles.

When Biden was running for office in 2020, he said that Trump's tariffs on Chinese products increased inflation on the public and promised to reduce or eliminate them.

He did not.

Instead, on May 4, the Biden Administration announced a massive tariff increase on imported goods from the People's Republic of China (PRC):

| | |
|---|---|
| Battery parts (non-lithium-ion batteries) | Increase rate to 25% in 2024 |
| Electric vehicles | Increase rate to 100% in 2024 |
| Facemasks | Increase rate to 25% in 2024 |
| Lithium-ion electrical vehicle batteries | Increase rate to 25% in 2024 |
| Lithium-ion non-electrical vehicle batteries | Increase rate to 25% in 2026 |
| Medical gloves | Increase rate to 25% in 2026 |
| Natural graphite | Increase rate to 25% in 2026 |
| Other critical minerals | Increase rate to 25% in 2024 |
| Permanent magnets | Increase rate to 25% in 2026 |
| Semiconductors | Increase rate to 50% in 2025 |
| Ship to shore cranes | Increase rate to 25% in 2024 |
| Solar cells (whether or not assembled into modules) | Increase rate to 50% in 2024 |
| Steel and aluminum products | Increase rate to 25% in 2024 |
| Syringes and needles | Increase rate to 50% in 2024 |

Tariffs on medical supplies must be considered particularly bizarre, as the population is still subject to outbreaks of the deadly Covid virus. And public health officials are increasingly alarmed by a new outbreak from the avian H5N1 flu virus which has infected dairy cows and their milk across the country. Many farmworkers who milk cows have become ill from this virus.

A June 3 Scientific American article reports:

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently recommends that workers on farms where H5N1 has been detected have access to personal protective equipment, or PPE, such as N95 respirators, face masks, goggles and face shields. But it's only a recommendation, Lakdawala says.

In order to prevent bird flu from causing more infections in humans, Seema Lakdawala thinks dairy workers on all farms should have access to and use proper PPE – especially face shields to protect their eyes. Getting workers to wear N95 masks while working all day in hot barns is unlikely, she notes, but a face shield would provide at least some protection.

But in terms of the economic effects on workers and the oppressed communities, the most dramatic was the tariff increase was on electric vehicles (EVs), going from Trump's 25 percent to a whopping 100 percent, doubling the price of the cars, placing them out of reach for most of our class.

And Biden tripled tariffs on Chinese-manufactured lithium batteries, going from Trump's 8% to 25%.

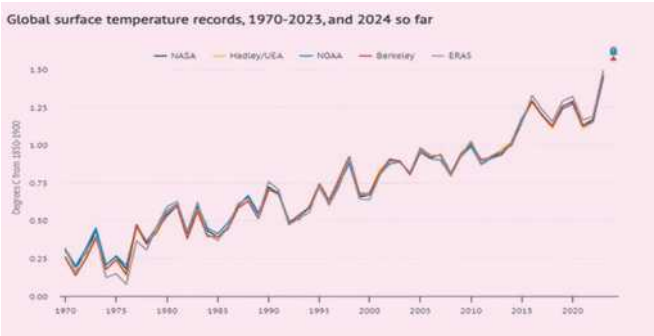
### The big winner from Biden's tariffs: Global warming

A May 28th article from the Foreign Policy website describes these new tariffs from an environmental perspective:

The winner of the escalating, zero-sum green technology trade war between the United States and China may well be climate change. In the latest surge of election-year techno-nationalism, to protect and advance his green transition—and to out-Trump former U.S. President Donald Trump — President Joe Biden last week imposed a wave of new tariffs on Chinese-made electric vehicles (EVs), batteries, and solar cells as well as other Chinese goods, in addition to retaining all of Trump's tariffs on China.

Biden has slapped a 100% tariff on Chinese electric vehicles.

Scientists are already predicting that 2024 will surpass 2023 as the warmest year globally:




A May 7 CNN article describes some of the catastrophic effects of this on people around the world:

The impacts have been stark. Swaths of Asia have been grappling with deadly heat: schools were closed for millions of children in Bangladesh, rice fields have shriveled in Vietnam, and people in India battled 110 degree Fahrenheit temperatures to vote in recent elections.

Global ocean heat in April was also record-breaking for the 13th consecutive month. Ocean surface temperatures reached 21.04 degrees, the highest on record for any April, and just a fraction below the overall record set in March, according to Copernicus data.

The impact on marine systems is devastating. A mass coral bleaching event occurred this spring, which scientists said at the time could be the worst on record.

As for the U.S., the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has presented a grim hurricane forecast for 2024:

NOAA National Weather Service forecasters at the Climate Prediction Center predict above-normal hurricane activity in the Atlantic basin this year. NOAA's outlook for the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, which spans from June 1 to November 30, predicts an 85% chance of an above-normal season, a 10% chance of a near-normal season and a 5% chance of a below-normal season.

NOAA is forecasting a range of 17 to 25 total named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher). Of those, 8 to 13 are forecast to become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 4 to 7 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). Forecasters have a 70% confidence in these ranges.

In 2021, to pass his corporate-friendly Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Biden promised a 50 percent to 52 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (compared to 2005 levels) by 2030, zero net emissions by 2050, and 50 percent of all new vehicles being zero-emission by 2030.

*Continued on page 9*

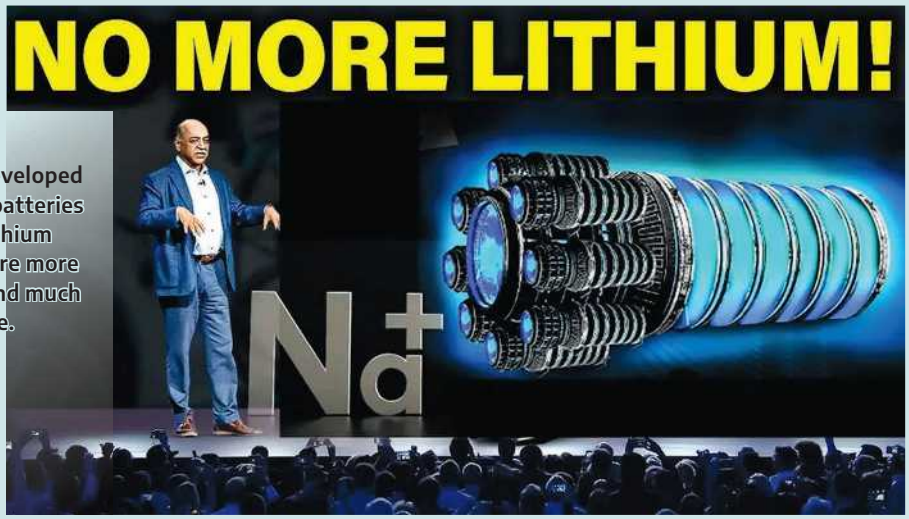
# responds

**PART 1** *Continued from page 8*

But in his campaign to "out-Trump" Trump and protect corporate profit margins and the oil and gas industry, these new tariffs mean that Biden's climate promises go right out the window.

As part of Biden's IRA, billions were allocated for public EV charging stations across the country. Yet by February 2024, there are only 61,000 public chargers in the U.S.

In China, by the end of 2023, there were 2.7 million such chargers, with a 40 percent increase expected this year.




China has developed sodium ion batteries to replace lithium ions which are more expensive and much less available.

# International solidarity, not corporate protectionism, key to union drives, jobs, and higher wages and benefits

**PART 2**

**Chris Fry | June 23, 2024**

**INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY**, not corporate protectionism, key to union drives, jobs, and higher wages and benefits

*Part 1 discussed how Biden has undermined his own publicized campaign to fight global warming by imposing huge tariff increases on China. Part 2 explores how the billionaire ruling class, patrons to both major political parties, is pressuring the government to suppress the re-awakening union movement, to "nip it in the bud" before it threatens its huge profits. So, it is now necessary for the labor movement to create its own independent viewpoint and stance of national and international government policies, including Biden's escalation of Trump's anti-China tariffs on EVs, batteries and other green energy products.*

On May 16, Biden's White House issued a statement quoting union leaders from the AFL-CIO, the United Steelworkers, the Teamsters, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the United Auto Workers all applauding Biden's anti-China tariffs. Most of those union leaders echoed the business leaders who were also on the White House statement, commending Biden for "defending American industries" from Chinese "overcapacity" in production of electric vehicles (ERVs) and their batteries.

Even the supposed environmental group Sierra Club was quoted as supporting Biden's tariffs, despite gasoline-powered vehicles currently producing some 25% of carbon emissions that are accelerating global warming.

But the UAW, under the leadership of Shawn Fain, struck a markedly different tone in its statement supporting the tariffs. There was no defense of American industry. Instead, it condemns "corporate greed" that is "pitting worker against worker, pushing wages lower and lower":

"The UAW applauds today's decisive action from the White House on ensuring that the transition to electric vehicles is a just transition. We have warned for many months that, left to the forces of corporate greed, the EV future was threatened by a race to the bottom, from China to Mexico to right here in the United States. Making sure that major corporations have to pay a price for pitting worker against worker, pushing wages lower and lower, is a key part of a pro-worker trade policy. America's autoworkers, our families, and working-class communities across this country want a trade policy that puts workers first. Today's announcement is a major step in the right direction."

### UAW reaches a contract agreement for battery workers.

The historic UAW "Stand Up" 2023 contract, won after a militant strike of all three of the "Big 3" companies (General Motors, Ford and Stellantis), placed their electric vehicle and battery factories under the national contract. This also applies to all jointly owned facilities with other companies, typically with foreign ones.

On June 10, the union reached a tentative agreement covering 1600 workers at the Ultium Cells plant in Lordstown, Ohio, a joint venture between General Motors and a South Korean partner, LG Energy Solution. It produces batteries for G.M. electric vehicles.

The New York Times reports that:

The Ultium Cells contract calls for moving workers to a new wage of $30.50 an hour. Over three years, wages will rise to $35 an hour. The national contract signed last fall had increased the Ultium Cells starting wage to $26.91, up from $16.50 an hour when the plant opened.

The Ultium Cells contract also calls for the plant to employ four U.A.W. members as full-time safety representatives, and one full-time industrial hygienist. The union and Ultium workers have raised concerns about working with high-voltage electricity and potentially harmful compounds used in the production of E.V. battery packs.

Some 200 former Lordstown workers who transferred to other plants when GM shuttered the giant plant will soon be transferring to the Ultium plant so they can return to the area.

UAW President Fain indicates that this agreement if ratified by the members, will be a model for negotiations at the other EV and battery plants.

This agreement comes some two months after a historic union organizing drive at the Chattanooga, Tennessee, Volkswagen

*Continued on page 11*

# A retired railroader looks at China's railroad system

China Railway high-speed bullet trains in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, January 21, 2019.
Photo: Xinhua

**By Stephen Millies**

A telling comparison between capitalist decay in the United States and surging economic growth in the socialist People's Republic of China is in their railroad systems.

Between 1950 and 2000, more than 79,000 miles of railroad lines were abandoned in the United States. Passenger service, now run by Amtrak, has withered.

Meanwhile, China has greatly increased its railroad network and now has 100,000 miles of track. China has built twice as many miles of high-speed rail than the rest of the world combined.

Last year, Chinese railways carried 3.68 billion passengers. That's 10 million passengers daily, a hundred times Amtrak's ridership.

China's railroads are on schedule to move 4 billion metric tons of freight in 2024. That's about three times the U.S. total.

Socialist China will invest almost $108 billion in its railroads this year. That's four-and-half times the $23 billion railroad monopolies in the capitalist United States spend on average.

How about urban transport? China has 55 cities with subway systems. Just in Beijing, three new metro lines will open this year.

In contrast, New York City has been trying to complete the construction of the Second Avenue subway for a century. Wall Street's hometown may be the only metropolis with less rapid transit than it had in the 1930s. That's because elevated lines were torn down without replacing them with subways.

The biggest victims of capitalist railroad shrinkage in the U.S. are railroad workers. There were two million workers on the railroads in 1920.

The Great Depression helped reduce railroad employment to 1.5 million workers in 1947. Since then, railroad jobs have fallen by 90%, with just 151,200 railroaders working in August 2024.

That's a smaller number of railroad workers than in 1870, one year after the first transcontinental railroad in the United States was completed. These massive job cuts devastated railroad towns coast to coast.

### Railroads and racism

Before any railroads were built in China, 15,000 Chinese immigrants were indispensable to building the transcontinental railroad across the Sierra Nevada mountains in California and Nevada. At least a thousand were killed.

Chinese workers, who were 90% of the Central Pacific's workforce, were paid as low as $26 a month, considerably less than their white counterparts. When they went on strike in 1867 over these dangerous conditions and low pay, their demands were ignored by the wealthy railroad moguls.

These tycoons included Leland Stanford, who founded Stanford University, and Charles Crocker, whose Crocker National Bank was merged into Wells Fargo in 1986.

When you hear reactionaries from Stanford University and its Hoover Institution attack the People's Republic of China, remember that Stanford's endowment includes the blood of Chinese immigrants.

Chinese workers were not given any thanks for their vital contribution. At the May 10, 1969, centennial of the Golden Spike ceremony, marking the transcontinental railroad's completion — now all part of the Union Pacific — Transportation Secretary John Volpe refused even to mention the Chinese railroad workers.

Two years after the Golden Spike, working people in Paris "stormed heaven," in Karl Marx's words, and formed the Paris Commune, the first working-class government. The same year, in Los Angeles, then a village with a population of 6,000, 18 Chinese people were lynched in an 1871 pogrom.

Ten percent of the local Chinese population were murdered. Sixty years later, the city's Chinese community was forced to move so Union Station could be built.

In the capitalist United States, railroads and racism went hand-in-hand. Before the Civil War, 9,000 miles of railroads were built by enslaved Africans.

Thousands more miles of tracks were laid after the Civil War by Black prisoners. Among them was the "steel-driving man" John Henry, who was worked to death building the Chesapeake and Ohio, now part of the CSX system. The capitalist running the C&O was Collis P. Huntington, one of the Central Pacific's founders.

Another big railroad capitalist was the former slave owner Johns Hopkins, whose fortune came from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (B&O), now also part of CSX. His

*Continued on page 11*

# fantastic

*Continued from page 10*

loot established Johns Hopkins University and its medical school in Baltimore.

General George Custer had it coming. He died for the Northern Pacific — now part of billionaire Warren Buffet's BNSF — that was invading Lakota Sioux land.

### Capitalism vs. socialism

About 41 high-speed trains travel daily between the Chinese capital of Beijing and Shanghai. They take around four-and-a-half hours to make the 819-mile trip.

Amtrak has one train, the Capitol Limited, between Washington D.C. and Chicago. It takes 17.5 hours to cover the 764-mile distance.

None of this is the fault of Amtrak workers. It's the result of decades of a capitalist class allowing much of the railroad system to decay.

On Oct. 1, 1949, Mao Zedong declared that "China has stood up." The People's Republic of China was born. At the time there were maybe 12,000 miles of operable railroad track in the country.

Seventy-five years later, China's railroad network has increased eight times in length and many more times in capacity. Almost all of it is owned and operated by the socialist government. There are 2.2 million railroad workers in China.

U.S. railroads were so dangerous that one in nine rail workers was injured in 1909. One in 205 were killed.

The response of the old Interstate Commerce Commission – abolished in 1996 in the name of deregulation – was to stop collecting these embarrassing statistics. ("The Economic History of the United States" by Ernest Bogart)

Two years ago, railroad tycoons like Warren Buffett refused to agree to sick days for railroaders whose work schedules could include any time of day or night, any day of the week.

We need what the People's Republic of China has: a socialist railroad system. The people need to take over the railroads.

*The writer is a retired Amtrak worker and a member of the American Train Dispatchers Association and Transportation Communications International Union. #*

# Biden's tariffs on China: A union worker responds PART 2

*Continued from page 9*

plant, the first such success in a Southern plant in decades.

### The corporate empire strikes back

On June 11, the day after the Ultium agreement, a court-appointed monitor, Neil Barofsky, appointed in a 2020 agreement to prevent the UAW from being taken over by the federal government after a huge corruption scandal, blamed Fain for "retaliation against another union officer". The document "paints a portrait of an organization deeply skeptical of federal efforts to keep the union free from corruption — in stark contrast to Fain's public image as an ethics-centered activist."

No actual charges of corruption are made by Barofsky, and Fain strongly denies any wrongdoing:

"Taking our union in a new direction means sometimes you have to rock the boat, and that upsets those who want the status quo, but our members expect this," Fain said.

"We encourage the Supervisors to investigate any complaints brought to their offices, because we know what they will find: UAW leadership is committed to serving its members and running a union democracy. We are focused on winning record contracts, growing our union, and fighting for social and economic justice on and off the job."

Whatever Biden's role in this smear, endorsing political candidates and supporting the Trump / Biden trade war obviously will not prevent these outrageous government attacks on the UAW and the growing trade union movement.

The Big Three, Big Oil, Wall Street, the whole imperialist establishment is not willing to produce the electric vehicles that the workers and oppressed communities can afford and are certainly unwilling to fully compensate the workers to produce them.

### Time for change

So, to continue to fight for high-paying jobs for workers to produce low-price EVs essential to reduce carbon emissions, the union movement should consider a different view of socialist China and its vast "green energy" capabilities, as opposed to the billionaire class's fixation on economic and social hegemony, its trade war and its push towards a military conflict and regime change, as well as its campaign to squeeze everything it can out of our class here.

The Chinese company BYD does have a factory in the U.S. in Los Angeles where it produces electric buses. Unlike their European counterparts in anti-union southern states, the BYD plant's 700 workers are members of the Sheet Metal Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers Union (SMART), Local 105.

Since U.S. auto companies are only interested in building fewer and more expensive EVs, costing tens of thousands of dollars more than their gasoline equivalents, the UAW is certainly entitled to call on Biden to invite Chinese auto companies to open plants in this country to produce the same low price high quality EVs they currently produce in China, but only if they pledge to recognize the UAW as the representative of the workers.

The union can also call for the same for Chinese battery companies. BYD, which produces new sodium batteries that are much cheaper and more environmentally "friendly" than lithium batteries, safer from fire, not degraded by low or high temperatures, do not require cobalt and other rare metals, and are far easier to recycle, could be invited to open facilities in the U.S.

Large sodium batteries used to store solar panel and wind turbine power during nighttime and calm winds are already being produced in China. Soda ash, which the U.S. has an abundance of, could be a sodium source far cheaper than lithium, of which the U.S. has little supply.

Some could even be exported back to China.

Inviting these companies to open such battery plants in this country could be a huge gain for both the union and environmental movement and link the two movements together. Finally, it could convert the dangerous ruling class spawned hostility towards China into genuine working-class solidarity.

*Chris Fry is a Chrysler retiree and former member of UAW Local 51. He worked on the pre-final line as an assembler at Chrysler Lynch Road Assembly before the company shut down the plant.*

*Source: Fighting Words*

# CHINA & AFRICA: Mutual assistance

**'Over the past 65 years, China and Africa have forged unbreakable fraternity in our struggle against imperialism and colonialism, and embarked on a distinct path of cooperation in our journey toward development and revitalization. Together, we have written a splendid chapter of mutual assistance."**

– **Xi Jinping**, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, President of the People's Republic of China

**By John Parker**

That message was delivered at the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). These powerful words against colonialism and imperialism were said in 2021, during a time when the COVID-19 pandemic especially affected Africa — a continent victim that has endured colonialism and imperialism, as well as the struggle for access to vaccine production.

While the U.S. and Europe put profits before the needs of the victims of colonialism and imperialism, President Xi chose to put those words of solidarity into action.

In that address, President Xi pledged one billion vaccine doses to African countries, planning to achieve a 60% vaccination rate in Africa by 2022. In 2021, the cumulative total population coverage with ≥1 dose ranged by country from 0.3%. Xi announced that 600 million doses were donated and 400 million would be produced by joint production projects with Chinese companies and African countries – allowing a further boost in infrastructure and self-determination on the African continent.

The 2024 FOCAC Summit that ended Sept. 6 remained consistent in direction: "Following the Eighth FOCAC Ministerial Conference in Dakar in 2021, we have worked together to fully implement the nine programs and deliver on other outcomes of the meeting."

The relationship is also mutual in benefit. Xi thanked the African countries that helped restore China's lawful seat in the United Nations — last year marked the 50th anniversary of that achievement. China also benefits from Africa's markets and the need for access to the continent's lithium, cobalt, and other minerals.

Turn 180 degrees from this relationship of mutual benefit, and you land at the feet of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, the imperialist financial institutions demanding austerity cutbacks for loans.

Nigeria is facing the worst economic crisis, with inflation levels not seen in almost three decades due to the austerity demands to secure IMF financing. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that 26.5 million of Nigeria's 220 million people are food insecure.

The primary architects of the IMF at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944 — the United States and Britain — ensured that African, Latin American, and Asian self-determination would be denied.

At the end of World War II, the Bretton Woods system established U.S. dominance of the world economy, with the U.S. dollar becoming the world's primary reserve currency for international trade and finance. Most world trade is conducted in U.S. dollars, not local currencies.

The IMF does not contribute to the development of essential infrastructure within a country; instead, it focuses on privatization and significantly reducing social spending.

Zambia faced strong-arm pressure from Canada, the IMF, the World Bank, and First Quantum Minerals in the 1980s. The denial of crucial economic aid jeopardized Zambia's survival. Consequently, the country was forced to privatize its nationalized copper mines in 1990, allowing companies like First Quantum to acquire them cheaply. Additionally, Zambia was forced to appoint a former vice president of the Bank of Canada as the governor of the Bank of Zambia. This guaranteed long-term poverty for Zambian workers … until now.

### A turn around pointing upward

"China is ready to use its experience and help Zambia unlock its development potential," said Chinese Ambassador to Zambia Han Jing at a press briefing held Sept. 12 in the Zambian capital of Lusaka after the end of the 2024 FOCAC Summit in Beijing.

Han said China was working with Zambia to make strategic plans for multiple means of power generation, storage, and distribution to help end the current power cuts and make Zambia an electricity exporter.

In 2013, China introduced the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), aimed at building infrastructure that links land and sea for the economic and social development of the Global South. In Africa, this includes railways in Kenya, an electric railway in Ethiopia, and hydropower stations in Uganda.

*Continued on page 13*

# to defeat imperialism

*Continued from page 12*

While the Belt and Road Initiative focuses on substantial infrastructure development through land and sea projects, the Digital Silk Road is about enhancing digital connectivity and fostering economic growth in a digital landscape for the countries involved.

In 2022, the technology sector in BRI countries saw a remarkable surge in engagement, achieving a staggering 7536% growth compared to the previous year, according to the Africa-China Center for Policy and Advisory.

Many African nations resisted U.S. pressure from the Trump administration against engaging with China, the Africa Policy Research Institute reported. As of September 2021, approximately 70% of the 4G base stations in Africa were built by the Chinese company Huawei. This is alongside the contributions of other Chinese firms in the development of fiber optics throughout the continent.

Which explains why Huawei was targeted by the U.S. Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou was arrested on Dec. 1, 2018, at Vancouver International Airport by Canadian authorities. She was on a stopover from Hong Kong during a business trip to Mexico City. Meng faced allegations of violating U.S. sanctions that barred trade with Iran and was taken into custody, pending extradition to the United States.

It is not solely the Republicans or Trump who assume a godlike role in their decision-making. In 1998, President Clinton authorized a missile strike on the Al-Shifa Pharmaceutical Plant in Sudan, resulting in one fatality and injuring others. This action was based on false claims that the facility was manufacturing a VX nerve agent. The plant was crucial for producing essential malaria medication for the African continent. Although Clinton later admitted that the information was incorrect, the U.S. government refused to pay for the devastation caused and did not mind the rising malaria-related fatalities that followed.

At the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held in Beijing, China outlined its plans to address malaria. According to the World Malaria Report 2023, Africa accounted for 94% of global malaria cases and 95% percent of malaria-related deaths in 2022.

Chinese scientists have developed solutions that resulted in a significant decrease in malaria cases and infection rates in the pilot regions following treatment. The World Health Organization is now collaborating with the CDC's parasitic disease team to expand malaria projects in Tanzania, Zambia, and Senegal.

John Parker interviews a Sudanese official while on a fact-finding trip to Sudan with Ramsey Clark, on the right, after the U.S. bombed the El Shifa pharmaceutical plant in 1998.

The Clinton bombing, which contributed to the spread of malaria in Africa, was answered by China's action. It is important to note that during the 1960s, both the Soviet Union and China facilitated the liberation of 17 African nations from colonial rule by providing military support. In fact, the liberation fighters in former Rhodesia received military assistance from China, and one of the earliest freedom fighters to receive training there is the current President of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Mnangagwa. Furthermore, Zimbabwe continues to receive military aid from China.

Threatening the world with rhetoric about remaining "lethal," as Presidential candidate Kamala Harris stated at the DNC, underscores that it ultimately does not matter whether such threats originate from Republicans or Democrats when they enable racism and genocide. African people, like the Palestinian people, know how to fight back; they are not alone in their struggle for liberation. #

## Celebrating 75 years of liberation

October 1, 2024, marks the 75th anniversary of China's transformative revolution, which liberated the nation from feudal oppression and imperialist control.

Under the leadership of Mao Zedong, widely recognized as Chairman Mao, the Communist Party of China achieved what many deemed impossible — inspiring not just China but working and oppressed peoples worldwide.

The revolution brought an end to China's "Century of Humiliation," which began with British imperialism's First Opium War in 1839.

Over the past 75 years, there has been significant progress for the masses and China's working class.

Today, China stands as a global scientific powerhouse, boasting achievements in high-speed trains, affordable electric vehicles, pollution reduction, carbon emission control, and space exploration. The People's Republic has made significant strides in healthcare, education, and sports.

At no point has U.S. monopoly capitalism adopted a hands-off approach toward the development of socialism in China or elsewhere. It has consistently intervened against socialism across the globe.

The maneuvers by U.S. imperialism have been increasingly more dangerous and now point in the direction of war.

The global working class, including U.S. workers, must stand united in solidarity with the working class of China.

This book, "**The U.S. War Drive Against China: What it means for workers,**" aims to illuminate the growing dangers posed by a potential U.S. war against China and to reveal the real enemies of the working class.

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# Explosions across Lebanon:
## Imperialist and Zionist terror escalates war

**By Lev Koufax**

The last quarter century has seen no shortage of Zionist horrors inflicted upon the Arab world. The examples seem endless. One could discuss the 2006 carpet bombing of Beirut. There is also the IDF's 2022 murder of Shireen Abu Akleh and the subsequent attack on her funeral procession. The images of home demolitions in the Gaza Strip and West Bank also come to mind.

Even with that terrible bloody history, "Israel" may have outdone itself this time. For two days in a row, the entire country of Lebanon rang out with explosions from personal electronic devices. On day one, it was pagers. On day two, it was personal radios or "walkie talkies." Nowhere was safe. Not the supermarkets. Not the hospitals. Not the bustling city squares.

Whether urban or rural, Hezbollah-controlled or not, the Zionist regime painted a tapestry of blood and terror across Lebanon. The first casualties were predictably children, including a 10-year-old girl.

The Zionists' first day of terrorist attacks killed at least 32 over two days (12 Tuesday and 20 Wednesday) and wounded 3,000. The wounded included Iran's ambassador to Lebanon. The carnage was not limited to Hezbollah members, not that the attack would have been acceptable if this was the case. At its core, this was a cowardly and evil attack aimed at sowing terror among the Lebanese people.

**Mourners carry the coffins of people killed after hundreds of paging devices exploded across Lebanon the previous day.**

### Electronic devices began to explode

The second day of attacks did not see the situation improve. As the day progressed, it all started again. Personal electronic devices began to explode and catch fire, engulfing apartments, cars, and storefronts. People could not even bury their dead without another round of terror. During the funeral procession for three Hezbollah members and a child killed by detonating pagers, a walkie-talkie exploded, severely injuring several funeral attendees.

At the end of the second day, 12 people lay dead, including two children and four health care workers. Over 2,800 people were injured, two-thirds of whom needed some form of surgery to their face, eyes, or hands.

As noted before, these attacks were at least partially aimed at sowing terror and fear among the defiant Lebanese people. However, this was not purely an attack of terror. This attack was carefully planned and deliberately aimed at wrecking Hezbollah's communication infrastructure, presumably as a prelude to some level of IDF incursion into southern Lebanon.

The Israeli army moved the 98th Division, whose forces have been fighting until recently in the Gaza Strip, to Lebanon's border following the cabinet's decision to shift most of the military's capabilities toward Lebanon, Haaretz reported Sept. 18.

Both pagers and walkie-talkies are crucial tools for Hezbollah's defensive efforts against Zionist aggression. In recent years, Hezbollah intentionally transitioned from smartphones and social media to more analog forms of communication to avoid detection by Zionist forces. This included Hezbollah fighters and political figures.

With Hezbollah's lessened ability to coordinate defense, mobilize reserves, and organize political support, the time for an IDF offensive is near. It is unlikely the Zionist military and its U.S. backers would commit to such a massive strike if it did not plan on following up with conventional military action.

### U.S. supply chain

One last thing that should be made clear is that the U.S. is not uninvolved in this attack. This attack likely required supply chain intervention and the careful placement of explosives before the pagers and radios even entered Lebanon. The Zionists also would have needed a large mechanism, probably aerial, to disseminate such a strong detonation signal across so much territory. "Israel" simply does not have this capability. This required U.S. economic influence and technological capability.

Hezbollah must be supported in its fight against U.S. imperialism and its Zionist running dogs. The people of Lebanon will not break. In the words of an online post from a Beirut resident, "We are many. We do not break. We do not die."

*Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist.*

# Coalition fights illegal auction of Palestinian land in Baltimore

**By Lev Koufax**

On Sept. 17, the Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly, with a coalition that included the Palestinian Youth Movement and Jewish Voice for Peace, staged a counter-demonstration against a Baltimore area "Israeli Real Estate Expo." In reality, this "expo" was an illegal auction of Palestinian land in Gaza and the West Bank to would-be Zionist settlers.

These land sales have occurred across the country as Zionist real estate firms smell opportunity in the wake of the genocidal Zionist war that has raged since Oct. 7, 2023. The Pikesville Hilton DoubleTree hosted the blood land sale and became a fortress for a few hours on what would have normally been a sleepy Tuesday night. The police harassed the demonstration's every movement, and a local attorney was stopped by the police when simply trying to serve a legal cease and desist demand on the hotel.

Pikesville is a historically Jewish suburb of Baltimore. The bulk of Baltimore's Jewish community relocated to the northwest suburb in the mid-20th century as part of broader white flight from Baltimore proper. In the decades since that flight, Pikesville has morphed into something of a Zionist stronghold.

As such, the Baltimore County Police Department mobilized most, if not all, of its active officers in the Pikesville precinct to confront the pro-Palestine demonstrators. The Baltimore County gestapo officers were aggressive, threatening, and at times violent toward the protest, which numbered around a hundred people. The pro-Palestine protest was simply a noise demo with chants, drums, Palestine flags, and the like. This is important to note, considering how the events played out.

As the afternoon progressed, Zionist provocateurs became more and more aggressive towards the protest. This reached a height with multiple assaults on pro-Palestine demonstrators and a wave of homophobic, racist, and, ironically, anti-semitic slurs hurled at the protest. Through all that vitriol, the Baltimore County gestapo took no action against Zionist provocateurs except to take them to safety.

The same cannot be said for the gestapo's actions toward the pro-Palestine protest. By the end of the night, the police had arrested a protester, who they charged with assaulting an officer and disorderly conduct, and held overnight on $15,000 bail. To call this a disgrace would be the understatement of the year.

However, this repression did not stop the crowd from rallying late into the night, gestapo police and Zionists be damned. No Zionist left the land auction that night without hearing the chants of those who would see the end of the Zionist apartheid regime.

As long as the Palestinian people are denied justice, then no Zionist nor their supporters will have peace. #

SLL photos

## Assassinated under U.S. command:
# Nasrallah murdered in apocalyptic bomb attack

*Continued from page 1*

when Israel was compelled to withdraw from Lebanon in 2000, and second, when Israel failed to overcome Hezbollah in 2006.

Nasrallah knew precisely who the oppressor was in the region. "It is America that controls Israel," he declared:

"There is a misconception prevalent in the Arab world regarding 'Israel'-U.S. relations. We keep repeating this lie about the Zionist lobby — that the Jews rule America and are the real decision-makers, and so on. No. America itself is the decision maker. In America, you have the major corporations; you have a trinity of the oil companies, the weapons industry, and the so-called 'Christian Zionism.' The decision-making is in the hands of this alliance. 'Israel' used to be a tool at the hands of the British, and now it is a tool in the hands of America.

"The recent call from Biden (to Netanyahu) proves everything I said before. If the Americans want to stop something, they can make it stop. The claim that the Americans cannot force Israel to do something is nonsense. According to some theories, Israel controls America. No sir, it is America that controls Israel."

Long live the resistance in Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, Syria, and Iran!

Defeat U.S. imperialism! #

# L.A. protesters shut down Wilshire Boulevard Solidarity with Lebanon

On Sept. 24, hundreds of demonstrators shut down Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles. The march was in response to the over 500 people killed in one day in Lebanon by U.S.-backed and supplied Israel. The Palestinian Youth Movement initiated the protest at the Westwood Federal Building. Many Palestinian and progressive organizations endorsed and mobilized for the rush hour action.

John Parker of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice recalled the stories from his father of seeing Black men lynched/hanging from trees. "We recognize this genocide. We cannot tolerate this genocide. It is no surprise that it was South Africa, with a deep memory of apartheid, that brought this current Israeli apartheid and genocide to the International Court of Justice. We need the money for housing and healthcare not for the bombs they are sending to Israel."

**Photo & caption by Maggie Vascassenno**

**John Parker speaking in Los Angeles.**

# Marcellus Williams murdered by state

*Continued from page 2*

yearly record year after year, and 2024 is on track to beat 2023.

From 2000-2016, there had been 1,300 on-duty police shootings in L.A. County alone, with not one cop being prosecuted at that time. A bill, AB 86, would have taken the decision of prosecuting killer cops out of the unwilling hands of prosecutors and given that power to Attorney Generals, forcing them to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate cop killings. Then-Attorney General Kamala Harris opposed this.

Harris' support of the genocide here in the U.S. follows a consistent line towards now – towards Gaza.

The five Black and Brown youths that were framed for the rape in Central Park. The children were abused by the cops and forced to give a confession after 24 hours of terror. Even though the youths did not plead guilty, they were convicted. Trump paid $85,000 to place full-page ads in the New York Times, Daily News, New York Post, and New York Newsday calling for their execution. After several years in prison, the DNA proved their innocence, and the culprit was found. They were released.

Yusef Salaam, one of the Central Park 5, ran for office and is now a New York City Councilmember, District 9.

If they had recieved a death sentence and the DNA evidence came out after the trial and appeals were done, like in the case of Williams and Owens - it wouldn't matter.

And like Kamala's complicity of silence, Trump, to this day, says his action calling for the execution of the five was correct.

Marcellus Williams' son said: "This is murder."

What is it called when the murder of people of color by direct or indirect enabling and silence by the government, which allows ethnicity to be the basis for the denial of the privilege of life – it is called genocide. And it is telling when the promoters of genocide fall into the same ethnicity as the targeted.

Diversity is a good thing, but the ruling class can also use it in a manner that serves genocide.

The genocide by presidents, former presidents, vice presidents, justices, and governors cannot be tolerated, even when they look like the targeted.

Their shameful complicity in genocide cannot be tolerated.

And it won't be – not in Africa, Latin America in the Global South, by the international working class, and right here in the U.S. Genocide will stop – by any means necessary. #

# Protesters denounce U.S.-Israeli mass murder in Lebanon

SLL photo: Stephen Millies

**Struggle-La Lucha New York bureau**

Rain didn't stop nearly a thousand people from coming to New York City's Times Square on Sept. 29 to protest the assassinations and mass murder of Lebanese people by the Zionist apartheid regime. The emergency action was called by the Shut It Down Coalition and the Palestinian Youth Movement.

Speakers pointed out that it was the U.S. supplied and paid for 2,000-pound bombs that murdered Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and their fellow freedom fighters. Over a thousand Lebanese have been killed, and hundreds of thousands have been forced to flee their homes by the attacks.

The U.S. first invaded Lebanon 66 years ago in response to the Iraqi Revolution that overthrew Big Oil's puppet monarchy on July 14, 1958 — Bastille Day. The Pentagon invaded again in the early 1980s before they were thrown out by the Lebanese people.

Protesters were somber, defiant, and angry as they marched through Manhattan streets to the skyscraper headquarters of the New York Times. The newspaper has been lying about Palestine for over 76 years, before the Zionist settler state was established.

Typical of the lying capitalist media was the New York Times' Sept. 29 opinion piece, "Why the World's Biggest Powers Can't Stop a Middle East War." The truth is that U.S. capitalism and its Biden-Harris administration just signed off on another $8.7 billion in weapons to Netanyahu's killing machine.

Behind all the Zionist atrocities is U.S. and European imperialism.

The French colonialists thought they had won the Battle of Algiers, but five years later, they were kicked out of Algeria. Lebanon and Palestine will win. #

# U.S. aid linked to Israeli strikes on Lebanon

**Struggle-La Lucha New York Bureau**

Thousands of people came out on New York City streets on Sept. 24 to protest the slaughter of Lebanese people by the Zionist apartheid regime occupying Palestine.

One march, called by the Palestinian Youth Movement and backed by the Shut It Down for Palestine Coalition, rallied in New York's crowded Herald Square, where several subway lines cross. It marched through the streets past Grand Central Terminal, ending in Times Square.

Another, called by Within Our Lifetime, gathered in Madison Square Park and marched to Grand Central Terminal. That march was ambushed and viciously attacked by NYPD's Strategic Response Unit,

who arrested at least 25 people. The cops broke one activist's wrist.

At the Herald Square rally, speakers denounced President Biden for supplying the bombs that Netanyahu's planes dropped on Lebanese and Palestinian children. They linked the U.S.-backed genocide in those countries to racist police violence and state terror in the United States.

That terror is exemplified by the state murder that very evening of Khaliifah Ibn Rayford Daniels, aka Marcellus Williams. The state of Missouri executed the Black man despite strong evidence of his innocence. A poem he wrote from death row, The Perplexing Smiles of the Children of Palestine, was read at the rally.

Chants and speakers emphasized the unity of the people of Palestine and Lebanon in the fight for liberation and the full responsibility of U.S. imperialism in this genocidal war.

Hands off Lebanon! Free Palestine! #

# Boeing workers are striking for everyone's right to retire

**By Stephen Millies**

Boeing Machinists on picket line Sept. 13 in Everett, Wash.

The 33,000 Boeing workers on strike since Sept. 13 are fighting a corporate giant with nearly $78 billion in sales last year. While strikers are concentrated in the Seattle metropolitan area, workers are also picketing in Portland, Ore., and Southern California.

Ninety-four percent of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) members voted to reject Boeing's meager wage offer that would barely keep up with inflation.

They also want their pensions back, which were stolen from them a decade ago. Instead of being guaranteed a fixed amount of money every month when they retire, Boeing workers had 401(k) plans foisted on them.

These schemes guarantee nothing. With them, workers' retirement income is subject to the casino capitalism of the stock market.

Boeing CEO Robert Kelly Ortberg doesn't have to worry about his retirement. He's raking in $22 million this year.

While workers struggle to afford housing, Ortberg just bought a $4.1 million house. Ortberg's predecessor as Boeing's CEO, Dave Calhoun, collected $32.7 million last year.

Instead of bargaining in good faith, Ortberg has flown in 400 janitors from Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas who are doing the work of IAM members.

Meanwhile, Boeing is forcing non-union employees to take an unpaid week off every month during the strike. The company's proposal to its aerospace engineers to take voluntary layoffs sank like a lead balloon. It was turned down unanimously by the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace executive board.

Boeing has constantly been the largest U.S. exporter and is an important part of Wall Street's empire. Its B-17 planes dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and its B-52s continue to threaten the world with their nuclear payloads.

## Capitalist greed and mass murder

Boeing's greed led to the death of 346 people in crashes of its 737 Max aircraft in Ethiopia and Indonesia. According to a 2020 congressional report, Boeing's rush to sell the plane ignored design flaws and other safety concerns. Former Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg was aided in a cover-up by the heads of the Federal Aviation Administration.

"Boeing — under pressure to compete with Airbus and deliver profits for Wall Street — escaped scrutiny from the FAA, withheld critical information from pilots and ultimately put planes into service that killed 346 innocent people," said the former House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee chairperson Peter DeFazio. "What's particularly infuriating is how Boeing and [the] FAA both gambled with public safety in the critical time period between the two crashes."

Capitalist competition led to corporate murder. Boeing's archrival Airbus had announced plans in 2010 to bring out a new plane — the 320 Neo — that would be more fuel efficient. Airlines' profits are tied to fuel prices.

Boeing executives were confronted with the prospect of American Airlines placing a big order with Airbus. So, they canceled plans to build a brand-new aircraft that would have taken a decade to complete.

Boeing instead launched a frenzied program in 2011 to bring out an updated version of its 737 model that first flew in 1967. Bigger, less fuel-hungry engines would be attached to its wings.

The problem was that the larger engines would have scraped the ground if they were put below the wings. Boeing's solution was to place the jet engines higher and more forward on the aircraft.

This remedy changed the plane's aerodynamics, making it liable to stall in flight and then crash. Boeing created a defective software program called the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System that was supposed to address this danger.

Muilenburg was forced to walk the plank but still collected a $62.2 million bonus. That's $179,000 for each of the 346 passengers killed in the 737 Max crashes.

Boeing's troubles with the 737 have continued. On Jan. 5, a panel flew off a Max 9 in flight, leaving a big hole in the airliner. Fortunately, no one was killed on the Alaska Airlines plane.

NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore are currently stranded in space because Boeing's Starliner was un-

*Continued to page 23*

## INFORMATION WAR:

# Telegram under fire for hosting pro-Palestinian content

**By Gary Wilson**

On Aug. 23, multiple pro-Palestinian Telegram channels were banned across Europe, including the "Palestine Archive" channel and the "Resistance News Network" (RNN). A week before the ban, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported that "Telegram has proved a massive challenge for Israel since the start of the war."

Telegram has been a critical platform in the ongoing information war regarding the situation in Gaza. It allows supporters of the Palestinian cause to share information about Israeli actions easily and to highlight the resistance efforts of Hamas, Hezbollah, Yemen, and Iran.

These channels, not its encrypted communications, were the focus of the New York Times special report on Sept. 10 aimed at taking down Telegram. Telegram has a unique service called Channels, which is used to broadcast public messages to channel subscribers. Anyone can set up a Telegram channel, and anyone can subscribe to the channels.

Haaretz noted, "While many tech firms have streamlined mechanisms through which states can reach out to them" to censor content, "Telegram is considered the least cooperative of them all."

### Telegram founder arrested by French police

On Aug. 24, the day after the Europe-wide ban on pro-Palestinian channels, Telegram founder Pavel Durov was arrested by French police. Following four days of intense interrogation, he was brought before a court and charged on multiple counts. Currently awaiting trial, Durov has been released on $5.5 million bail, is required to report to the French police twice weekly, and is prohibited from leaving the country. Additionally, a warrant has been issued for his brother, the co-founder of Telegram.

French authorities have framed this action as a standard cybercrime operation to combat criminal activities. President Macron has reassured the public that the arrest is "not political."

However, the French government and its allies appear to be seeking access to the extensive user data stored on Telegram, aiming to establish a legal precedent and send a strong message that any messaging platform refusing government intervention will be punished. It is an entirely "political" attack.

The charges against Durov mirror the targeting of Edward Snowden, Julian Assange, Chelsea Manning, and the Uhuru 3 as part of a broader campaign of political persecution. Under the guise of anti-terrorism and crime prevention, the imperialist powers are using repressive tactics against those who dare to oppose their actions at home and abroad.

### Snowden revealed tech giants work with U.S. intelligence

In 2013, following Edward Snowden's revelations that tech giants had granted U.S. intelligence extensive backdoor access on platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook, Durov established Telegram as a secure messaging alternative.

A leaked 2021 FBI document confirms that Telegram is the most opaque messaging platform regarding what the agency can legally access.

As a result of its consistent refusal to disclose user information, Telegram has experienced intermittent bans in 31 countries since 2015. Telegram has emerged as a vital platform for organizing protests and revolutionary movements.

Its appeal lies in the fact that it has largely evaded external pressures. The platform has 950 million monthly active users, a significant increase from 500 million in 2021.

In the Ukraine war, Telegram serves as a crucial communication tool. The CIA-funded Radio Free Europe reports that almost everyone in Ukraine tunes into Telegram channels to get the news, particularly the reports from Russia.

Telegram has become the primary news source, offering real-time battlefield updates that don't always align with the Biden-Zelensky propaganda that fills Kiev-based media. The Ukrainian government tried to ban Telegram last year.

### Note about encrypted communications

Telegram's Channels are a free and open communications tool that is available to anyone. The messages sent through the channels are encrypted in transit between your device and Telegram's servers and cannot be read by any form of unauthorized access to the transmission. But the messages are stored unencrypted on Telegram's servers, and theoretically the content can be accessed by Telegram, or if compelled, it can be shared with authorities.

Many reports on Telegram confuse the encryption during transmission with end-to-end encryption used in truly private conversations. In end-to-end encryption, the messages are encrypted in transmission and on the server and cannot be read by anyone.

Telegram's Secret Chats offers end-to-end encryption, but this can't be used on the channels.

WhatsApp uses end-to-end encryption for all personal messages, group chats, voice calls, and video calls. What WhatsApp calls a "channel" is not free and open, requiring a business account to use it fully. However, WhatsApp is owned by Facebook, which collects a lot of information from what people do on WhatsApp. WhatsApp is reportedly programmed to identify key words in sentences, like "birthday" or "travel," and send them to Facebook's servers to be processed for advertising before encrypting messages.

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# Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry:
# Cruel to tigers and kids

**By Gregory E. Williams**

Louisiana governor Jeff Landry – who recently tried to stop summer school lunch programs – is pressuring Louisiana State University (LSU) to resume parading its live tiger mascot at home football games. This hasn't happened since 2015, when Mike the Tiger VI was still alive. The current Siberian Bengal tiger, Mike VII, kept in an enclosure at LSU's Baton Rouge, has never been subjected to this.

In a statement, LSU veterinary school spokeswoman Ginger Guttner clarified:

"LSU will not bring Mike VII to the Nicholls game and is not in discussions to bring Mike to any games this season."

An LSU statement explained that the old practice contradicts current standards of "responsible care for live exotic animals."

Indeed, LSU and other stadium games are so loud, and there is so much movement that they register on the Richter scale. This can only be stressful for tigers, which are primarily solitary animals.

But oil-and-gas-investment millionaire Landry doesn't care about harming tigers. His cruelty is well-established. Earlier this year, he tried to prevent Louisiana from participating in the summer school lunch program for needy children.

In Louisiana, 267,950 – one in four – children face hunger. Having been a legislator and attorney general, Landry is well aware of this. He simply doesn't care about the kids. His attempt to snatch food out of children's hands was so shocking and unpopular that lawmakers from his own party forced him to back down.

## Local animal advocate speaks

We talked to New Orleans animal rights activist, Katie P., about Landry's proposal.

**SLL:** You have a history of advocating for animals forced to perform, particularly whales. Can you say a bit about past campaigns you've worked on and protest actions you've attended?

**KP:** I've been actively involved in advocating against the captivity and exploitation of animals, particularly those forced to perform for entertainment. One of the first protests I participated in was back in 2015, targeting the Ringling Brothers circus for their use of animals, especially elephants and tigers, during their performances. This protest took place at the Smoothie King Center in New Orleans.

As many know, Ringling Brothers retired all their elephant performers in 2016, before taking a hiatus. When they returned for their 2023 North American tour, they featured no live animals at all. This major shift was the result of years of activism, state-level bans on live animal performances, and declining ticket sales driven by public outcry over the abuse of these animals.

I also have a deep concern for marine mammals, especially whales kept in captivity.

The origin stories of places like SeaWorld, where wild cetaceans were captured and forced into confinement, are heartbreaking and cruel. These captures didn't just affect individual animals but also had lasting impacts on the native pods they were taken from.

One case that really brought me back into activism recently was Tokitae, an orca who was captured as a baby from her family pod in the 1970s and lived in the smallest whale tank for the rest of her life. Tokitae endured decades of psychological and physical suffering, neglect, and poor nutrition, performing daily for food until she passed away in August 2023.

The Miami Seaquarium, where she was held, has gained a reputation for its poor treatment of animals. After her death, investigations revealed that she likely died as a result of captivity-related issues like malnutrition, pneumonia, and inadequate veterinary care.

In response to Tokitae's situation and other marine mammal abuses, a group called UrgentSeas was formed in 2022. One of its founders, a former animal trainer at Marineland in Ontario, Phil DeMers, became an activist after witnessing the behind-the-scenes abuse at these marine parks. I was inspired by their work and traveled to Miami in September 2023 to protest alongside them at the Miami Seaquarium following Tokitae's death.

Since then, there has been significant progress. The USDA has conducted surprise inspections and found numerous violations, including the tragic death of a dolphin who swallowed a four-inch bolt.

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New Orleans protest against Ringling Brothers, 2015. Activist Katie P. is second from left.

# Landry: Cruel to tigers and kids

*Continued from page 20*

As a result, Miami-Dade County began the eviction process against the Seaquarium due to its repeated violations, particularly concerning its animal care standards.

I'm incredibly proud of the impact we've achieved in these two cases. It's taken a lot of dedication and effort from both organizers and supporters, but it's proof that direct action can make a difference. Moving forward, it's crucial to continue educating the public and raising awareness because things are not always what they seem.

**SLL:** Do you think that this kind of animal exploitation is driven by the profit motive?

**KP:** Yes, animal performances and captivity are entirely profit-driven. When it comes to animal entertainment, the primary motivation is financial gain, not conservation. Many parks and attractions claim they are contributing to conservation efforts, but that's often a misleading narrative. If animals are being made to perform or are generating revenue for the company, it's not about protecting or conserving them — it's about maximizing profit.

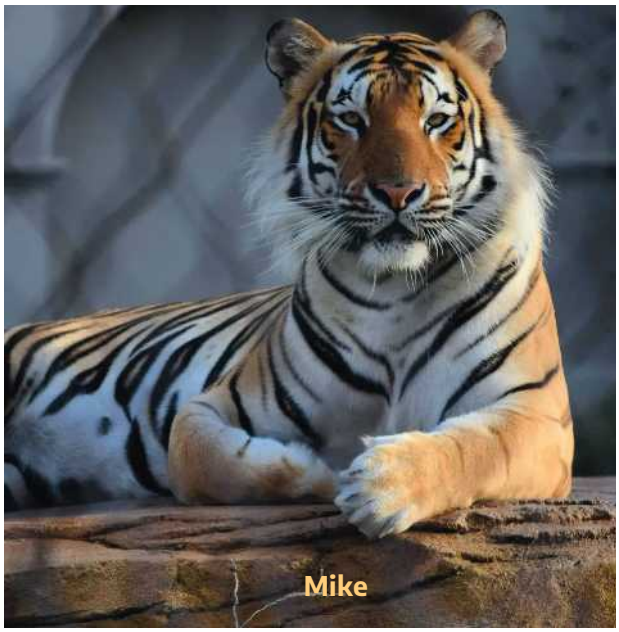
**SLL:** Do you have information about the conditions of the workers at these places?

**KP:** While I don't have extensive firsthand knowledge about the working conditions across all these establishments, it's clear that there's a range depending on the venue — from smaller, roadside attractions like the Miami Seaquarium to larger, more technologically advanced facilities like SeaWorld.

The conditions for employees can also vary based on their roles. For example, vendors and cleaning staff are reportedly paid low wages at the Miami Seaquarium. I wouldn't be surprised if many don't have access to adequate benefits like health insurance.

The company's cost-cutting practices also extend to the animals, as it was revealed they were skimping on food, failing to pay rent, and neglecting necessary investments in the animals' environments and overall care.

If the animals' welfare was being compromised to save money, it's highly likely that the workers were also facing financial hardships. Moreover, when companies prioritize cutting costs, it creates unsafe working conditions, leaving the employees to bear the consequences as well.




The current LSU tiger, Mike VII, was acquired by the university in 2017 and resides in an on-campus enclosure.

**SLL:** A horrific example of this is the 2010 death of animal trainer Dawn Therese Brancheau. She was killed at SeaWorld Orlando while working with an orca during a show. Orcas are highly intelligent, social animals that live in close-knit groups called pods, meaning that orcas in captivity are in unnatural, stressful situations.

The orca, Tilikum, had been captured in Iceland in 1983 and forced to perform ever since. He had already been involved in the deaths of trainers Keltie Lee Byrne in 1991 and Daniel Patrick Dukes in 1999.

After Brancheau's death, SeaWorld resumed performances with Tilikum in 2011, though with less human contact. He died in 2017, likely from a bacterial infection.

**SLL:** What do you make of Landry's ambitions to bring Mike the Tiger out at football games?

**KP:** I believe it would be a terrible idea to take Mike the Tiger to LSU games.

First and foremost, it's clear that Governor Landry doesn't have a strong track record when it comes to being conscious or compassionate about environmental or animal welfare issues. His stance on matters like climate change denial and disregard for scientific evidence in decision-making reflect that. Recently, he's gained attention for pushing questionable laws and making decisions that seem more about creating controversy than serving the best interests of the state.

What's unclear is the reasoning behind his push to bring Mike to live games. I've tried to find a clear justification, but there doesn't seem to be one. If the motivation is simply that he "wants to," then we need to ask ourselves, is that really a valid reason?

When we consider decisions like this, we have to prioritize the well-being of the animal. It's important to step back and ask: Are the personal desires of one group more important than the needs and health of Mike? To me, the answer is obvious — Mike should not be taken to live games.

Beyond the ethical concerns, all of Mike's veterinarians have stated that it's not in his best interest to be transported to these events. Ignoring expert medical advice, simply to satisfy one person's ego or agenda, is not just irresponsible — it's harmful. #

# Telegram under fire

*Continued from page 19*

Facebook and, therefore, WhatsApp also work with the police and government whenever requested, unlike Telegram.

Signal is a messaging app often promoted as an alternative to Telegram. All communications on Signal are end-to-end encrypted, including its channels. Not frequently mentioned, Signal collects some user metadata, including user phone number, device information, and connections made.

Signal was and remains very prominently used and promoted by dissidents and protesters backed by the U.S. government-funded National Endowment for Democracy (NED). Signal itself was developed by the Open Technology Fund, another U.S. government project. The app was initially used for U.S. intelligence operations globally. WikiLeaks documents from 2017 revealed that the CIA has a backdoor to bypass Signal's encryption. #

# Make no mistake: Zionist war on Lebanon is a U.S. war

**By Lev Koufax**

The site of the assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut's southern suburbs

The last two weeks have seen Zionist escalations against Lebanon, and really the entire Arab world, not seen in decades. This escalation began with the U.S.-Zionist mass murder of more than a thousand Lebanese people through explosive electronic devices on Sept. 17 and 18.

Occupation forces followed the grizzly pager attack with widespread air strikes on southern Lebanon. In the six days following the initial pager attacks, the Zionist air force launched over 2,000 air strikes against targets across Lebanon. These targets included everything from Hezbollah rocket sites in the south to densely packed apartment complexes in the Beirut suburbs. The strikes resulted in the deaths of thousands of people, including many children and healthcare workers.

As if those events weren't filled with enough terror, the regime assassinated Hezbollah Secretary General and liberation icon Hassan Nasrallah and announced a ground offensive into Lebanon proper.

While there is no doubt that the racist, imperialist project known as "Israel" is the direct weapon used against the people of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iran, etc. – there is a hand that holds that weapon, and that hand is drenched in blood.

Every single drop of Lebanese blood shed in this recent onslaught covers the hands of the United States. As Zionist aggression has continued, so has a noxious narrative in U.S. media – mainstream or otherwise. This narrative portrays the U.S. government and military as benevolent actors attempting to restrain Israel, described as a rogue actor.

On Sept. 24, as the Zionist air strikes on Lebanon escalated, CNN reported that "U.S. officials work feverishly to stop the Israel-Hezbollah confrontation from spiraling into a regional war." The war criminal in chief himself, Joe Biden, repeated his tepid call for a "ceasefire" between "Israel" and Lebanon.

On Sept. 30, in light of announced IDF incursions into Lebanon, Business Insider asserted that the raids were the "latest sign Netanyahu is ignoring Biden's warnings." Just a day later, SkyNews asked, "Biden was clear – so why is Israel defying its closest ally?" The article went on to chide Netanyahu for refusing to follow the U.S.' lead in seeking a "ceasefire."

The assertion of this narrative is clear: the U.S. is as always, the good guy, and Netanyahu is simply out of control. Simply, this narrative is a lie.

You may not have seen that U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, the head of the Pentagon, a retired four-star general who was also a board member at military contractor giant Raytheon Technologies, publicly corrected Biden and said that the U.S. is not for a ceasefire. Austin said he had spoken to his Israeli counterpart, Yoav Gallant, and that Gallant had agreed to launch what Austin called the "necessary" operation in Lebanon, including the ground invasion. The Pentagon sets the policy.

As the entirety of Lebanon took cover from U.S.-funded Zionist strikes, "Israel" secured another $8.7 billion in military aid from the U.S.. The U.S. government does not want legitimate de-escalation in this conflict because the defense industrial complex that the U.S. politicians and bureaucrats represent want the opposite of de-escalation in the Middle East. An expanded Zionist war against Lebanon means expanded profits for Raytheon, General Dynamics, and Boeing.

If the U.S. government really wanted peace, they would not provide "Israel" the means to so provocatively strike at the empire's enemies in the region. It is ridiculous for the U.S. government to provide the Zionist regime with all the weapons of terror it could hope for. That's not what anyone seeking a diplomatic solution would do.

The Zionist project is only able to strike at the people of Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, Iran, and Syria because the U.S. equips and empowers them to do so. No U.S. imperialist outpost – no war. It really is that simple.

As this war escalates, the U.S. cannot be allowed to escape pressure and retribution for unleashing this genocidal onslaught against the entirety of the Middle East.

Long live the resistance!

*Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist.*

# East Coast dock workers on strike

**Oct. 1, over 45,000 dockworkers from Maine to Texas went on strike against port bosses shutting down 36 U.S. ports. Above, community activists from the People's Power Assembly joined strikers at the Baltimore Locust Point port.** SLL photo: Andrew Matatag

# Bill Camp ¡Presente!

**By Lallan Schoenstein**

Bill Camp, a leader in the union movement who fought tirelessly for workers' rights, died Sept. 23. Camp was known not just as a labor union leader but equally for his years of work in solidarity with the workers of Cuba to end the damage inflicted on the people of Cuba by the U.S. government blockade of that country.

Lianys Torres Rivera, the head of the Cuban Mission in the United States, posted on X: "Deepest condolences to Bill Camp's family, whom the Cuban people will never forget for his unconditional solidarity and ongoing struggle for justice, peace and better relations between our country and the U.S. RIP Dear friend ❤."

When Bill Camp received a diagnosis of brain cancer last summer, he never paused in his organizing work, determined to get Cuba off the list of "countries who support terrorism," a fallacious narrative started by Trump and continued by Biden, to tighten the deadly strictures of the blockade on Cuba.

### A long life lived well with many accomplishments

Bill Camp was born in 1944 in the cotton mill town of Anderson, South Carolina. While at College in Jackson, Mississippi, during the 1960s, he joined in actions supporting integration. The Mississippi White Citizens Council targeted Camp with a KKK-type death squad. He managed to escape across the border before sundown.

In 1968, while enrolled in a Ph.D. program at Duke University, he played a lead role in organizing student support for a strike by the Black workers on Duke's maintenance staff who were receiving less than minimum wage. The strike was successful, and Camp was expelled from Duke.

In Redding, California, Bill Camp's efforts helped to create the national model for parent participation in the early childhood education program, Head Start.

From there he and his spouse, Catherine Camp, moved to Sacramento, where he worked for the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board. This state agency guaranteed the organizing rights of farm workers. He ran elections to recognize the bargaining rights of farm workers, investigated illegal actions by growers, and played a key role in helping to win the first collective bargaining contracts for lettuce workers in the Imperial Valley.

California Gov. Deukmejian eliminated his job after Camp reported on illegal appointments to run the Prosecutorial Division of that State agency.

He joined the Sacramento Central Labor Council (SCLC), and during the 15 years he served on the Labor Council, it became a significant voice for the working class in the area. He remained on the Board of the SCLC and the SCLC newspaper even after he retired in 2014.

In 2015, Bill received a union flag signed by UFW President Arturo Rodriguez and Cesar Chavez Foundation President Paul Chavez, recognizing his decades of selfless service to farm workers.

His son Bayliss Camp noted that "my father may have been living with this cancer for perhaps two years before it was diagnosed. … During those two years, he organized trips to Cuba."

Bill Camp was instrumental in organizing a group of union members, their union officers, and supporters, mainly from the U.S. West Coast, in the aptly named Building Relations with Cuban Labor (BRCL). That included leading a group of labor leaders and members to celebrate Cuba's May Day 2024 in Havana. The visit was planned to support Cuban workers and see the many accomplishments of the Cuban workers. #

# Boeing workers are striking for everyone's right to retire

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able to bring them home from the International Space Station.

### Give us back our pensions!

None of these tragedies and fiascos are the fault of Boeing workers. Management's crimes include taking away the IAM members' defined benefit pensions.

An important part of the anti-labor offensive since the 1970s has been eliminating these pensions. These company plans, like Social Security, promise a guaranteed monthly payment depending upon your wages and years of employment.

Corporations have ditched these pension plans because it forces them to pay the promised benefits. From 1962 to 2010, the percentage of employees with defined benefit-only pensions fell from 44% to 20% of the workforce.

Shedding these pensions allowed corporations to make billions more in profit. The 401(k) plans are a poor substitute.

Boeing workers only agreed to the theft of their pensions because the corporation threatened to move more work to a non-union plant in South Carolina. Now they're fighting to get them back.

Last year's strike by the United Auto Workers against the Big Three auto companies got rid of the hated pay tiers where younger workers got lower pay and benefits. It led to the UAW winning a union representation election at the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Any victory by the IAM members at Boeing, particularly in getting back their pensions, can help get a union for the Boeing workers in South Carolina.

It will also echo throughout the United States. Millions of workers have no retirement plan at all. Billionaires want you to work until you drop.

A victory for the IAM members on strike at Boeing will be a victory for all working and poor people. #

# Todo nuestro apoyo a la Internacional Antifascista: Declaración de la Casa de las Américas

**Por la Red en Defensa de la Humanidad**

En 1937, cuando la República española resistía el asalto de las tropas de Franco, apoyadas decisivamente por Hitler y Mussolini, y frente al silencio cómplice de la mayor parte de los gobiernos europeos, se alzó en Valencia el clamor de los mejores intelectuales del momento. Desde allí, Juan Marinello sentenció: "no es posible combatir el fascismo sin atacar a su hermano gemelo, el imperialismo".

Hoy los Estados Unidos tienen muchos frentes abiertos en el mundo. Atizan conflictos en Europa, en el medio, en el lejano Oriente –para hablar solo de los más conocidos ahora mismo–, e, incluso, al interior del país, se avivan pugnas que están poniendo en riesgo su propia versión de la democracia. Nada de eso les impide olvidarse de nuestra región, a la que siguen considerando su patio trasero.

Herederos de una historia de doscientos años asentada en formulaciones como el "imperio para la libertad" proclamada por Jefferson, con su inevitable corolario en la Doctrina Monroe y la política del Destino Manifiesto; en consonancia con las decenas de intervenciones directas o indirectas, cuartelazos, golpes de Estado judiciales, bloqueos y presiones de todo tipo en la América Latina y el Caribe desde mediados del siglo XIX hasta hoy, los Estados Unidos mantienen intacta su vocación imperial sobre los territorios al sur del Río Bravo y la renuevan una y otra vez.

Una constante en estos dos siglos de injerencia es la obsesión por destruir cualquier proyecto soberano o medianamente progresista en la región, para no hablar ya, por supuesto, de la guerra desembozada e implacable contra aquellos que defienden alternativas revolucionarias. En un momento en que el mundo y nuestro propio Continente asisten al avance de la extrema derecha, los ataques se multiplican y se hacen más evidentes. Entre tanto, una nueva dama de hierro, la generala Richardson, Jefa del pavoroso Comando Sur, recorre parte de nuestra geografía –recientemente Chile, como antes Argentina, Brasil, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú y Uruguay–, para que todos recuerden quiénes tienen el mando.

Pero hay pueblos que no obedecen ni aceptan imperios, doctrinas ni destinos manifiestos. Por ese motivo, contra Venezuela se alza hoy la más rabiosa cruzada desestabilizadora, que incluye desde la violencia fascista, las conspiraciones armadas como la que se denunció hace apenas unos días, la injerencia desfachatada de gobiernos extranjeros, hasta la incesante campaña de desprestigio a través de medios hegemónicos, plataformas digitales y redes sociales.

Todo ello sin descontar las sanciones económicas: el arma que Lester D. Mallory, un oscuro vicesecretario de Estado Asistente para los Asuntos Interamericanos recomendaba, en el caso cubano, en 1960, con el fin de "provocar hambre, desesperación y el derrocamiento del Gobierno". La misma arma que diez años después, apenas electo Salvador Allende, el presidente Nixon, también conocido entre sus compatriotas como Dirty Dick, encomendaría usar a su secretario de Estado: "hay que hacer chirriar la economía chilena". Similar también a la usada una década más tarde contra la Revolución Sandinista, y tan usual hoy en buena parte del mundo.

Siendo la más escandalosa y abierta, la embestida contra Venezuela –como contra Cuba, pronta a cumplir 65 años– no es única. Sobre Honduras se cierne de nuevo el fantasma de un golpe de Estado, cuando el anterior todavía está fresco en la memoria de su ciudadanía. Por su parte, el presidente Gustavo Petro ha advertido que se "inició un golpe de estado a la colombiana". Y en México, el gobierno de López Obrador decidió poner en pausa las relaciones con los Estados Unidos ante la interferencia de sus funcionarios en decisiones que competen exclusivamente a mexicanos y mexicanas.

La unidad de los revolucionarios fue uno de los reclamos principales del Congreso Mundial contra el Fascismo que se celebró en Caracas los días 10 y 11 de septiembre. Hoy vemos con dolor y angustia que en la hermana Bolivia crece una división suicida que solo puede beneficiar a las fuerzas fascistas y al Imperio. Las mismas fuerzas –esos siniestros gemelos– que el Congreso convocó a enfrentar, como uno de los mayores peligros que hoy padece la humanidad, con la creación de una Internacional Antifascista.

Desde la Casa de las Américas ratificamos todo nuestro apoyo a la naciente Internacional Antifascista y a su decisión de hacer de Nuestra América y del mundo un espacio donde prime, por sobre todo lo demás, el derecho a la vida y a la dignidad humana.

*La Habana, 17 de septiembre de 2024*

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